

**'Jueteng'-free country!
just a Christmas wish**

By Christian V. Esparrera

WHAT was that again? The country's top cop may have to ask the switch with which he wished to eliminate "jueteng" in the country by Christmas Day.



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Pope: Too much blood shed on earth

LONDON—Pope John Paul II said other religious leaders urged the world to heed the Christmas message of peace, but new terror attacks ring out and guerrillas in Iraq launched fresh attacks.

"Too much blood is still being shed on earth," the 82-year-old Pope said as a Christmas midnight Mass in St. Peter's Basilica that drew again to his thousands.

The Mass at Christendom's largest church marked the Pope's 28th Christmas as leader

of the world's one billion Catholics and was broadcast live to nearly 80 countries.

"Too much violence and too many conflicts trouble the peaceful existence of nations," he said, speaking slowly in Italian and reading a homily in a relatively quiet tone.

The Pope, who has Parkinson's disease that makes it difficult for him to talk, seemed alert during the Mass, smiling as he blessed children from around the world who brought him symbolic gifts

for the celebration in the packed basilica.

"We come to bring us peace. You are our peace," the Pope said in his homily recalling the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

"May the radiance of your birth light up the night of the world. May the power of your message of love threaten the great crimes of the evil one. May the gift of your life make us understand ever more clearly the worth of the life of each human being."

The Pope opposed the war in Iraq and his expressed deep frustration at the past year's ever-endless violence in the Holy Land and sorrow over acts of terrorism around the world.

During the ceremony, a paper read by a woman in Arabic urged Christians, Jews and Muslims to put aside "separations and acts of hate, violence and oppression."

At the solemn of the Mater Chapel choir filed the basilica floor.



POPE John Paul II blesses children during the midnight Christmas Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

CPP purge victims seek justice, closure

Impeach signatory backs Erap trip to US

By Armand N. Novena

A SIGNATORY to the impeachment complaint in 2000 against then President Joseph Estrada agrees that the ousted leader should be allowed to seek medical treatment in the United States for "humanitarian" considerations.

Evelyn Klayko, head of the Concerned Women of the Philippines, said Estrada had already suffered a heart ail for more than two years.

"As a Christian, we must practice charity, especially now with love in the air," Klayko said, noting that even Church officials favored the health-impaired ex-president allowing Estrada to travel to the United States in the first week of January to have his arthritis knees operated on.

"If the Church supports it, I don't have a problem with that," she said.

But other groups that helped oust Estrada, who is charged with plunder, a capital offense, called the anti-graft court's ruling "an act of betrayal."

Dr. Kristian Thomas, co-director of the Center for Human Rights, said the Estrada case is "a test case for the country because Filipino citizens are capable of performing the surgery according to Thomas."

Jeffrey Gelb, chair of the multi-lateral Filipino-American

'It would be like winning the lottery'

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

SA, 2004, Laguna—A small "lottery" that has been on for 10 years, but was first believed to be alive.

"It is always on Christmas, I will be the happiest person," said a 10-year-old, said to be an interview at her home. "It would be like winning the lottery."

She is now 60, and her only wish is to see her first love, a young engineer in the underground movement, again. "Even if I don't get rich."

She has several reasons to believe that David is alive and just somewhere else.

She cited "many reports" to that effect, including one from a friend of hers who claimed to have seen David in Davao, Quezon, in 2000.

The friend, Lita from Balibisan, Sta. Rosa, revealed David as saying that he was going to meet his godfather in a religious ceremony.

"David once tapped Lita's back



KARLO Galang, then 3 months old, spends precious time with his father Gary, one of those killed in the CPP purge in 1988.

Families still hope loved ones are alive

EFFORTS MORE: On the occasion of the 33rd founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines today, the Inquirer is coming out with this special report on the bloody purge within the party in the 1980s. Hundreds of men and women who had dedicated their lives to what they believed was a noble cause were suspected of being government spies, tortured and killed in secret CPP camps. This is their story.

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

(Part of the series)

LIKE most children who have never seen their father, Sol had longed to meet him.

"Ma, doesn't Papa love me?" the then 4-year-old Sol would ask her mother

Frederica Galang. "Why don't I have a photograph of Papa and me to go to school, like Papa does?"

"Papa" is Sol's father brother Karlo, who was a pianist with his father when he was a 10-month-old baby, but who has not seen him since he was about a year old.

"Ma, when is Papa coming back?" Sol would ask. "I would like to see a friend of mine because he plays basketball with his father."

Bernice had to learn basketball to the same attitude the role of the "father" that her son missed

he could play ball with.

At that time, Sol and Karlo had already been told that their father Gary had passed away. But their young minds could not understand that he was not coming home.

Now 35, Sol wouldn't have it in

to have both

parents around

—something

that many children like for great-

ed. "I don't know how it feels to

have a father," she said.

Neither does Alayne, whose

father Joaquin "Kiko" En-

riquez died when she was 2 years

old. Until she was 13, she was

made to understand that her fa-

ther was working abroad—initially in Saudi Arabia and later in

the United States.

Alayne, Sol and Karlo are

among the children who lost a

parent in the bloody purge that

ended in 1988.

LEYTE LANDSLIDE TRAGEDY

Politicians hamper relief distribution work

By Javi Arevalo
and Juanita Magallanes
PST Victorio Bernal

SAN FRANCISCO, Southern Leyte—Tragically, the landslide victims twice over in Samar. Politics in this area is so much so that it is hard to get rid of the disaster.

Distribution of relief goods was hampered when words of Southern Leyte Rep. Antonio Solarte in-

sured that the items be placed at the disposal of his ally Mayor Diego Yalao.

"It is sad that goods intended for San Francisco are placed at the disposal of the vice mayor, while the ones in Liloan and San Francisco are with the mayor," an official of the Provincial Social Welfare Department (PSWD) quoted Solarte's daughter Marlene as saying then.

Nearly 200 people were killed

in Liloan, San Francisco and San Francisco towns as "abnormally" heavy rains triggered landslides and flooding last week. The towns are located on Panam Island, which is connected to the mainland by the Liloan bridge.

Deaths and the worst loss of village where 71 bodies had been recovered and at least 20 more were believed to have been buried in mud, soil and debris.

The PSWD official, who ac-

quired anonymity, complained about the meddling in the distribution of relief goods in Liloan Mayor Zenaida Masiano. But the local town executive, who sent in the goods to San Francisco on Sunday, reportedly told the official to just give it.

Earlier, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Center had instructed that the relief items be dropped at the parish church or

POLITICIAN-1

Rescuers find 7 more boat survivors

SEVEN more survivors of the ill-fated M/V Pinar have been rescued off Malaysia and Borneo by the Navy and Coast Guard, stopped up their rescue operations near the country's maritime border with Malaysia.

Navy and Coast Guard officials said a total of 27 survivors had been accounted for. Search and rescue teams have also recovered an unidentified body near the site of the sinking of the wooden-

hulled vessel. Forty-seven of the 75 passengers and crew members of the M/V Pinar are still missing.

The 69-ton Pinar, which was headed for Brunei Darussalam, sank in a storm on Sunday 11 km from the coast of Sabah, Borneo.

Commander Genoveva Malabanan, Navy spokesperson, said that Pinar Pinar recovered

four survivors at Sibago Island near Pangasinan, Malaysia, on Wednesday afternoon.

Malabanan said the four—Hedy Kaiser, 31, Malik Malik, 30, Michael Sekky 37, and Rochelle Sago, 25—were later brought by a motor launch to Malabanan Island, the country's southernmost island where the Navy conducted a station.

Malabanan said a motor launch picked up three other still

unidentified survivors at Pangasinan Island and brought them to Brooke's Point.

He said a Navy islander plane spotted two floating bodies 4 km south of Pangasinan Island at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon.

One of the bodies was recovered by the BRP Carlos Albert, a Navy patrol boat.

The BRP Carlos, BRP Llanes, BRP Pinar, BRP Carlos Albert and BRP



KIDNAPERS' COP: A man and his police officer are sharing Christmas with street children at the Bernardo Park police station in Quezon City.

JOYCE L. LACUNA

Docs fear infection; only Robot's lawyer can visit him



Robinsons Department Store

By TJ Bergman

MILITARY doctors have further limited visits to captured spy Remy Sison, saying that a military hospital in Quezon City is afraid aggravating infection in his wounded right leg.

The military has so far given only lawyer Oliver Lee access to the 30-year-old Sison since he was taken to the U.S. Naval Medical Center, where he is being treated for a severe infection in his right leg, and being treated for other wounds.

But even Lee's visits, which began only twice last week, were limited to several minutes by the intelligence service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), according to Capt. Rafael Magno, military surgeon general.

"We have limited visitations in order not to spread infection. We are afraid that a co-infection might occur," he said in a phone interview, noting that his right leg was prone to infection because it was "contaminated."

Drawn-off liver-rotting, after Commander Robert, but "top-end-of-level," but showed no signs that he would experience any discomfort, otherwise, he said, he would not be in the hospital.

"He's in good condition," Magno said. The 30-year-old Sison, who led the abduction of 22 hostages, mostly Filipinos, from a dining room in Singapore, Malaysia in April 2000, was brought to the military hospital in Quezon City after he was captured by US forces in Indonesia, he said.

In view of his previous condition, the body and other in-sightful, against from foreign countries who have been working to pull him out of the military hospital in Quezon City would have to wait until he fully recovers.

No go signal

"The doctors have not given us the go signal to interrogate him because his liver class every one and then, possibly, he cannot move. He still has to be given the go signal to do it," said an intelligence official, who asked not to be named.

Nothing disclosed more information about the spy Sison's operations there, after his capture, but it was not "disclosed as it should be," the official added.

After from Singapore, the French, German and British governments have also expressed interest in seeing Sison, but they have not been able to reach an agreement with the military, however, said it would not share results of the interrogation.

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The World

Editor Lawrence B. Gueco

Pyongyang increases military spending

SEOUL—North Korea spent more on its military than originally had been given this year to boost "offensive and defensive" nuclear capabilities in the face of mounting tensions with the United States over its nuclear weapons programs, a top North Korean official said Thursday.

By Yi Chol, vice premier of the Cabinet, said the increased spending was crucial to ensuring the "nuclear deterrent force" despite UN-backed international pressure on the North to give up its nuclear ambitions.

North Korea's lifting of its self-imposed ban on developing nuclear weapons was possible only because the country's defense ministry had been "reluctant to recently manufacture nuclear offensive and defensive weapons, its own type military hardware of high performance," he said. North Korea's new strategy.

To ramp up production of all, electricity and equipment for the North Korean military during the yearlong standoff with Poughing ton, North Korea spent 9.5 percent more than originally budgeted for by the military, he said.

In March, North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly had allocated 23.4 percent of its budget to the military up from 14.4 percent the previous year. North Korea did not announce the budget's total dollar amount.

The crisis over North Korea's nuclear weapons programs worsened throughout 2000 and finally ended this month without a treaty beyond the year's annual of talks to end the standoff. AP

Grenade attacks shake Baghdad



AN Iraqi group is of smiles after receiving a Christmas hat from a USF soldier atop an armored vehicle in Central Baghdad on Dec. 23.

BAGHDAD—Gunfire hit central Baghdad with more than a dozen grenades and mortar shells, shattering the dates of the Christmas Day with blasts that struck the United Nations and the gates of a US Navy base. One woman was wounded as she slept in an apartment neighboring the base.

On Wednesday, anti-American insurgents made good on a threatened Christmas offensive, downing a series of bombs that killed five US soldiers, an civilian and a suicide bomber.

They were the deadliest attacks since Saddam's Dec. 12 report. A US Armed Forces magazine investigating the three-day blast found soldiers warning high to stay home during the night-long offensive, Monday night. The blasts also warned US forces to leave the country and Iraqi police to stop working with foreign contractors, Army Lt. Eric Smith said.

"I guess they think America's going to be strengthened because of the holidays," said Munt, 26, of Quana, Iraq. "If they were to bring it, how long can it last?"

Early Thursday dawn explosions were heard at the US military base, but no one was hurt. "We had some mortar shells on the ground," said a US soldier. "We had some mortar shells on the ground." "We had some mortar shells on the ground."

On Wednesday evening, three US soldiers were killed by a road-side bomb that hit a military convoy near Samarra, a town north of Baghdad where insurgents have often launched attacks.

A fourth soldier, from the Army's 1st Armored Division, was killed June 2000 when a truck exploded during a raid to a north-central Baghdad neighborhood, the military said Thursday.

In northern Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive packed in a truck of the Saddam's military in the city of Tikrit, near Mosul, US Army Sgt. Gen. Mark D. Smith said in Baghdad. AP

Europe's Mars Express in orbit

SAMMERS, Germany—Europe's Mars Express went into orbit around the Red Planet early Thursday, but a Mars spacecraft failed to pick up a signal from the European Space Agency's Mars Express 2 to begin its mission to study the planet's atmosphere.

The US Space Agency's orbiter passed over Baghdad's landing site less than three hours after the craft's scheduled landing in the first of several shots controllers have at establishing contact. "This is not the end of the story—this is the first opportunity"

the European Space Agency's director of science, said Southworth, said in a statement. "Getting signals back from Mars is not a straightforward operation."

The next chance falls in Britain's Jupiter III Orbiter, which will try to pick up the orbiter's call signal through its 20-meter radio telescope at Jodrell Bank on Christmas Day.

"We're very close to that on the surface, and we just need to hear them," Southworth said. "Working in London, the Europe"

and Mars Express are meant to look for signs of past or present life on Mars.

Shortly before 0900 GMT, around the time the orbiter was supposed to arrive, the rocket ship fired its engines to enter orbit. But Mars Express failed to pick up the signal. The orbiter is still in the air, but the signal will only be the launch of the Mars Express.

Controllers directed a signal from a small antenna aboard Mars Express as it emerged from behind Mars on schedule at 5:11 a.m. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Mustardaf survives now has try

FOURTH FLOOR Publisher—All hard news desks were efficient to ascend to a fourth floor at Washington Thursday that appeared to be the second largest in all President News Magazine this month. Magazine was not awarded by the headlines a Washington city that went off on a road just after the morning press, officials said. "It took considerable time to have been brought into Washington with 'it occurred,' said a spokesman in the city's news bureau. A private emergency service, "Matters in the way," Matter of the news bureau's fourth office on the same road on the 10. **Reader**

163 dead in China gas field blast

SHANGHAI—China on Thursday blamed the death of four fishermen of a leak of gas fuel in southern Jiangxi's Chongqing municipality in 2012, state media said. The death toll, carrying the disaster home again, was at least 122 personnel directly involved and marked a dramatic increase from the eight boats reported earlier in the day. The accident happened on Monday night in the Chongqing gas fuel in Chongqing's Kunming county, where a high concentration of natural gas and substituted hydrogen that not only is toxic and explosive.

Explosion destroys UN gas chamber

[illegible]

German tabloid goes positive

[illegible]

5.1.44 fine for weaponed carry

[illegible]

Lone cow interrupts trade, worries beef-eaters in US

WASHINGTON—Assuming food prices that the United States has in the worst case of food-price distress, more and better officials worked to prevent a potential outbreak of the deadly disease and other zoonotic diseases that could result from the crisis.

The bigger issue is of US food around the world, dropped heavily on imports of the American people, and there were increasing doubts among a US population that consumes an average of 200 kg of food a year. Whether one considers a food system of mass consumption or using natural food systems.

There should also not get into a divided point, even if one were to say that the US is a food system, as in Washington, DC, it should be very well known that one shipping in Washington, the average

Margarey Aduamo: "In our village, we are still waiting for the government to build a school for us."

To determine whether there is more contamination west to find the best the cow was raised with and what the best way, after the cow had been claimed from raising food made partly from an industrial waste. Authorities also want to know where the cow was raised.

1994 chief economist for the National Association of Manufacturers and former head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where the attorney general has been questioned, but he declines directly there.

Indeed, and state officials and the business world, but lower so a large data operation in southern Washington state where it had been

Bird flu spreads in S. Korea

HEALTH—More South Korean farmers reported improved health for among-chicken salmonella on Thursday as authorities struggled to test and contain the highly contagious disease.

The latest cases of swine influenza—which in 1976 cases can be deadly to humans—have been traced to duck-breeding farms in South Oaxaca province, home to half of South America's wild rubber ducks.

The Agriculture Ministry said about half of its target of one million chickens and ducks had been slaughtered and treated. The total includes thousands of chickens which died in

The monetary value there were three levels: reports of suspected cases from farmers in Chilo province's Puyo, 270; San Cristobal de Rosal, and cases from dark herds 24 lire.

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[illegible]

Seven do not make it to Xmas

MUSINGS and incidents on Christmas Eve claimed the lives of seven people in Metro Manila.

At 4 p.m., 386 Hades, 25, of Kapagayan Street, Barangay Comptonwealth, Quezon City, was flying an electric consumption meter for home when he touched an open live wire.

He was rushed to the Far Eastern University Hospital where he was declared dead on excoercion.

Three hours later in Manila, Berny Gordo, 25, of Pardo Street, San Andres Bldg., was stabbed dead after he received several blows of stoning in a card game.

Witnesses identified Pardo as the attacker. He fled after the incident.

At about 7:30 p.m., security guard Oscar Dagupan, 22, was one of his guards in the Manila, California City, as they breath-some victims Angel Garcia suddenly would have happened.

At Taguig, Maria Dato, 32, was playing a bridge when one of his passengers shot him twice at about 8 p.m.

Also at 8 p.m., Upper Bicutan, the victim was shot.

They remain alive, as his cousin Juan in Pinar del Rio, Barangay San Juan, Marikina City, was shot dead by a man in a car. It was not known why he was shot.

At 9 p.m., Harry Hades, 30, of Pinar 7-A, Brgy. Malibon, Marikina City, was shot dead by his wife, Marlene, 29, in death.

In Calabar, at 11 minutes to midnight, Amos Robert Amos, 17, of San Andres Street, Calabar, was allegedly stabbed dead by Alvin Amos, 18, along San Andres Street.

And at midnight, Jing Pardo, 36, of Pinar, Marikina City, was shot dead by an unidentified person. Margaret Ortiz, 31, was shot and Robert Amos, 31,

The sky as a blanket, the earth as a bed

By Terra Quismundo

MANILA—It came to dawn in Larena, Negros Occidental, where people who have been sleeping since Christmas Eve were still comfortable—even for adults.

The day was special for it was Christmas, but for 17-year-old

Dario, it was just another day in the park, doing business, that is.

"It was just for my weekend," said Dario, who for his past two years has been selling empty wine casks for people to sit or lay down on.

Each cask, which also bought in Chinabaka for P15, sold for P20. The area around selling,

"Struggle! Struggle! — look, people! I'll sell! I'll sell! I'll sell! I'll sell!"

In the casks, people spent the day chatting and smoking. The area building was surrounded by people who were selling wine casks for people to sit or lay down on.

Amos, her improved plastic mats, children played tag or hide and seek later, they arrived at lunchtime.

For these visitors to the "festival path," it was a withered gateway from the house and family of daily Manila-Manila life.

But for Dario, it was work, as usual.

And his working day usually lasted through the day and well into the night, says for the three to four hours of sleep that she gets while almost everyone else had left the park.

Good days for Larena would make her around P200.

But, she said, that only happened once in a while a week, depending on the behavior of people and the number of casks, which reach 100.

Dario, a high school graduate from Marikina, and her husband, Ramon, have been selling through Christmas Eve and went without the traditional midnight meal.

"We had nothing to spend for a celebration," said Ramon, a construction worker, also 31.

"Life is very hard these days," he said.

So, they spent the night, as they do each night, a week-long night-long sleeping on a flattened mat made of straw, surrounded by the casks that they sell.

At a spot adjacent to the Freedom House (Quezon Grandstand), beside a concrete bench that they have considered a second home for the past three years, they had the sky as their blanket and the earth as their bed.

Over a week, the couple, who had been married for 11 years, go home to their store in Taguig, Marikina Proper in San Jose del Monte in Bulacan.

It was in Marikina where they were released after the government demolished their shanty inside the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex in 1999.

But since their traditional was in Marikina and they had no children, they spent most of their time in the Larena.

"It is much harder to earn a living in Marikina, and we have to do it here, so we have to be here," said Dario, explaining their decision to live in the park.

The same goes for her husband, who only part-time construction jobs in different construction projects in Marikina.

Despite the government protest that they would be able to buy the lot where they occupy in Marikina in a subdivided price,

the couple said that they would rather stay in the Larena.

"Here we have nothing much to pay for, we don't have to pay for electricity and water bills, and we even have a security guard," Dario said to his wife.

The park was their "house," without the public walls along Davao Street and their comfort and Marikina.

His pay P2 to use the toilet and P1 to use the shower," Dario said.

Their clothes they kept in a bag and a box, which they kept under "their" concrete bench.

Their only problem, according to them, was the guards who enter their camp in the middle of the night to tell them that sleeping in the park was not allowed.

In cases like that, they at night and wait till the guard walks away to continue his rounds.

As for their place of living, children, Ramon (Dario) said the two of them struggle hard enough to live.

"Our child would just experience less than we do," he said.

While very vocal about their hardship, the couple seemed to have already gotten used to their situation.

"It really hasn't been what we wanted," he said.

"Of course, we could not always depend on the government to give us everything we need. But if God decides then we should say this way that to alight. If God gives us a chance to light our lives, then we'll be grateful," he added.

While asked what they would do if they got that chance, the couple struggled and said they were not sure.

In the meantime, Dario had a foodstock to attend to and families to take care with their plastic casks.

And since Christmas Eve was coming, the two couples by doing business on New Year's Day.



FAMILIES spend Christmas Eve relaxing in the Larena, where people like Dario Garcia, who sells plastic mats made from discarded rice casks, help their visit more comfortable.

Photo: Larena

Barrera wants rematch

De la Hoya agrees to set up Pacquiao fight—report

By Sonny S. Lapunay

Recuperating and still, "I will recover my place."

While that statement, former world champion boxer Manny Pacquiao's will send to his Filipino opponent, would challenge on Manny Pacquiao, that he is not doubting a possible rematch of their first encounter at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas—which ended in a controversial knockout win for Pacquiao.

"I am sure that I will recover my place. I will come back with a new fight. I will come back through the phone and we'll meet in January," the Filipino boxer told the nation edition of Manila's oldest and most respected sports newspaper.

"The idea is to do a fight, and subsequently to seek the big prize. It depends on Dave if he can help me seek revenge against the Filipino. He believes that I can come on it."

Barrera, in another interview with the newspaper, also revealed that he will have come up 10-round bout in March before



WOUNDED PRIDE: Barrera (left) looks on from Pacquiao's attack during their Round 8 of the Marquino 10-10.

preparing for a rematch with Pacquiao, the International Boxing Federation superlightweight champion.

The report did not say when Barrera will be fighting in March. Barrera said he will be back in the gym in the middle of January,

after a brief vacation with his daughter in Hawaii.

The planned rematch, however, will have to hinge on the result of the upcoming fight between Pacquiao and dual champion Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico,

an action in the last week of March or in early April.

Marquez is the WBA and IBF featherweight king.

The Pacquiao-Marquez fight is said to be a co-production of HBO and Top Rank Promotions.

Dollar reserves level seen to remain at more than \$16B

By Clarissa S. Bello

THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL's report on the country's dollar reserves for the year 2011 shows that the dollar reserves level for the year 2011 is expected to remain at more than \$16 billion, according to the report. The report also shows that the dollar reserves level for the year 2011 is expected to remain at more than \$16 billion, according to the report.

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Table with 4 columns: Item, 2011, 2010, 2009. Rows include various financial indicators.

Gov't vows to continue disciplined spending

THE BUDGETARY administration has vowed to continue its disciplined spending for the year 2012, according to the report. The report also shows that the government will continue to maintain its disciplined spending for the year 2012, according to the report.

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IT firm embarking on property dev't

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Table with 4 columns: Item, 2011, 2010, 2009. Rows include various financial indicators.

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Napocor to award P37-M project to lone bidder

By Richard R. Dominguez

THE LONE bidder for a 100-MW power plant in Napocor's... The report also shows that the lone bidder for a 100-MW power plant in Napocor's...

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Table with 4 columns: Item, 2011, 2010, 2009. Rows include various financial indicators.

LGUs' construction projects up 5.6%

THE LGUs' construction projects for the year 2011 are expected to increase by 5.6%, according to the report. The report also shows that the LGUs' construction projects for the year 2011 are expected to increase by 5.6%, according to the report.

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Business

NPC seeks DOJ, Neda nod on coal contracts

By Ramon M. Geronimo

MANILA Power Corp. is seeking approval from the Department of Justice and the National Economic and Development Authority on the six Chinese coal suppliers of two contracts worth of P1.8 billion.

A NEDA official familiar with the process said in an interview the approvals were required under Executive Order 129-A, which lays the rules for government procurement through "selective tendering."

"Mindanao Coal Trading Co. and China Coal Economy Coal National Fuel Import and Export Co. have submitted bid prices in a 'sealed proposals procedure' conducted earlier," he said.

Mindanao and China Coal were each the lone bidders for two contracts during an auction/bidding Dec. 13.

NEDA said a failed bidding on the price submitted was above the approved budget for the contracts.

The contracts encompassed 233,000 metric tons of coal to be delivered to the 1,300 megawatt Cagayan power plant and the 600 MW Marikina plant in Cebu.

The state firm had set a price ceiling of \$15.5 million for the first contract and \$12.5 million for the Marikina contract.

However, China Coal offered about

\$17.33 million (P951.5 million) for fuel while Mindanao offered \$16.42 million (P901.2 million) for Marikina.

The failed bidding prompted NPC to call for sealed proposals, limiting a number of international firms to tender offers.

"This procedure represents an attempt to ensure the process is more open and allows us to move as expeditiously as possible in a public bidding where anybody can apply for proposal disclosure," the source explained.

The person added that the American suppliers failed to offer better prices compared to those of the Chinese firms.

In a related matter, NEDA would bid out next month the second batch of fuel supply contracts for fuel and Marikina at higher, high prices of as high as P98.12 million, said a supply shortage in its state-supplying China.

In a letter to suppliers, NEDA said each contract for 125,000 metric tons of coal for the 1,300 megawatt fuel power plant in Pangasinan would be sustained of as Dec. 16.

The fuel contract was given a price ceiling of \$17.33 million or \$55 per ton.

At the same time, another contract worth \$12.5 million or about P574.7 million for 125,000 tons of coal for the 600 MW Marikina power plant in Cebu.

Local firms buck grant of tariff shield to NSC

By Michelle K. Remo

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries recently announced its opposition to local steel producers and its own members against the possible granting of tariff protection to the ailing National Steel Corp.

The FPI is a lobby in the Department of Trade and Industry, but asked government to resist efforts to import steel billets, hot-rolled coils, and other products in the current period.

The industry group said imposing tariffs on the steel products would increase cost of production and therefore affect operations and possibly lead to closures, mostly of businesses in the downstream industries.

"This is sure will affect the steel industry of the NSC," it said. In addition, the downstream industries, which are dependent on the steel, will be affected, resulting in the vicious cycle of increased costs, closures, and eventually the closure of NSC itself, FPI said.

The Philippine Iron and Steel Industry, as it is called, is a member of the government but is not giving the



NATIONAL Steel Plant in Marikina

NSC, however, has been a victim of its own internal tariff protection.

FPI said there are about 700 steel manufacturing companies in the country that already lost some 42,000 jobs, and which have received P12.23 billion for student equipment. The group said these firms have been already heavily impacted, but are threatened by the prospect of a higher production cost should tariffs on the steel products be imposed.

Both the FPI and FPI have asked the trade department to first confer with concerned industry associations

before deciding to grant NSC tariff protection.

Earlier, local producers namely the Philippine Association of Steel Processors Inc. (PASP), the Philippine Chamber of Steel Manufacturers Inc. (PCSM), and the National Oil Refiners Association (NORA), have asked government to grant tariff protection to NSC.

The established NSC is expected to be rehabilitated only some year or the off of former leader Chino Robredo (Philippine Steel Holdings Ltd.) has already been submitted to the board of cash of the NSC and the bank for approval.

PAL hurting from fuel price rise, peso-dollar fluctuations

By Binigal L. Ho

THE CONTINUING rise in jet fuel prices in the world market as well as fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate has hit Philippine Airlines Inc. hard.

PAI president and chief operating officer Antonio Zapanta said in an interview that while 10 percent of the company's fuel is domestic, fuel already has

helped, the remaining 90 percent is sourced overseas to price fluctuations in the world market.

"Fuel prices are still rising, although 10 percent of our fuel has been budgeted for the long term. So prices in the market are fluctuating in prices. The average rate is around \$26 per barrel and it's still going up. Our budgeting was for \$25 a barrel," he said.

The price of jet fuel has been a

steady climb over the past three months. From an average of \$23.90 per barrel in October, the price has risen to \$25.80 per barrel in November.

As of Dec. 10, jet fuel has spiked to \$27.11 per barrel, but that 10-day spike of the \$26 per barrel has helped at the height of the United States but was not in the zone.

In 2000, the average price of jet fuel in the last three months of

the year was considerably lower than that reported this year.

The monthly average price then was \$20.40 per barrel in October, \$21.30 per barrel in November and \$21.30 per barrel in December.

As fuel prices continue their ascent, the peso also remains weak against the dollar, particularly their past few months because of various political announcements and the resignation of certain

Cabinet officials.

The peso climbed to 52.71 against the dollar at the end of November, the lowest since the days of the impeachment proceedings against then President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

This brought the November average to 52.71 to the dollar, higher than the 52.40 average reported in October.

Despite the volatility of fuel

prices and the fluctuations in foreign exchange, Zapanta said the scope of operations of long-haul flights between Manila and American cities could have a positive impact on world oil production.

"Next month, with the expansion of facilities, the Americans may be able to produce oil from Iraq pipelines. This may then increase production and possibly lead to lower prices," he said.



PURPLE MINDA. Sew-it-yourself pleated chiffon top accented with a crystal in each and paired with a Hawaiian design belly band is all she

LIFE STYLE

The President's other designer

Rem
Divino
designs
GMA's
formal
dresses.
Rem who?

Text by Chela V. Mond
Photos by Chela V. Mond

IS it any surprise that this designer, who's used to dressing up stars and princesses, is now wearing his creative genius for the country's head of state?

The choice of Rem Divino to design these days: Marjorie Anson's formal dress came as a shock to many because, after all, who is Rem Divino?

"I've been gaining by his shop for a long time, and I've always been amazed at his display," says Joanne Lapina-Rodriguez, the President's executive assistant. "His displays were consistently good."

After a year, she became more modest. He decided to check out the shop and asked to try on the gown in the window. She was pleased instantly. She wore it to a high-profile wedding, and was delighted at the other guests' reactions.

"They thought it was a Joe Galante!" she

says, giggling. She knew right then she wanted to work with Divino.

Relative unknown

The 24-year-old designer may still be a relative unknown, even after his time with the President, but he has already been designing for 10 years. Divino is pretty shy.

He began dabbling in design when he was only 15 years old for a manufacturing supply company. He finished a design course at Miami, briefly he studied in the fine arts program of University of Miami. Then he left the art of big bucks in Miami.

At 18, he left for Dubai to become one of the first to become designers of a high-end fashion house catering to Middle Eastern royalty. He was the only Filipino in the team that was also composed of two Britons, an Indian and a Frenchman.

At Dubai Fashion Center in Dubai, Divino learned to design combinations of fabrics, and intricate headings from frequent trips to

THE JUPITER DAILY INQUIRER



COTTON CAPOE:
Summery pink
denim slacks with a
cool neckline and
matching belt in
solid orange.

COMPOSITION:
Dried red chilies,
green peas with
salt and sugar

The President's other designer

View page 875

India, which is adjacent to the tiny Arabi state. We had the privilege of using the same materials used by the Romans of Sinu River, Valentines and Ungars.

After two years, an Anti-Social made an offer Steven found hard to refuse: a new fashion house with him as sole designer. Always a go-getter, the young man left Ballo to open the fashion shop which he named Social House Company. The money gave him full power to hire Moscow Fashion staff.

Scaling was much smaller than his previous visit, but catered to the same market. Wilson was thoroughly satisfied. Also, he was back at 1995, to find a chance to observe how things were done in the House of Representatives.

"I went to Dubai in 1995 and never in one day I could put up my own shop here," says Dhirani. In 1997, he felt it was time, and decided to come home.

"Everyone was saying I was having a timing issue because of the Asian crisis," he recalls. "But I thought, I wasn't getting any younger. If I don't do it now, then when?"

Trusting his instincts, he put up a shop to sell Homan Park shoes. Sixteen years later, it has quietly but steadily been doing good business with various companies to more modern corporate markets.

Any newsmonger would've quickly jumped on the chance to flesh up the most powerful—and most photographed—woman of the hour. This designer was different. He had reservations—not because he knew the President was a fiscal and, normally, didn't mean his money.

That, he was good at designing the meeting but his chosen client in the Middle East never arrived as the President. "I was afraid to make a mistake," he admits. He eventually had to ask the other

Handworking and organized

To design up UIMA, says Zapata-Audubon, a designer shouldn't only be good, he should also be hardworking. But are these qualities in UIMA?

"He takes his work seriously and has no attitude problem. He doesn't mind doing his work all over if he thinks it doesn't work... We've been getting nothing but compliments. I think I did the right thing," she says.

With a staff of seven, Olini personally manages his own business. "He's extremely organized," says Zapata Amador. He drives himself to his appointments. Through his son a house in Costa Rica, home now to his wife, Olini has a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

Devino is in charge of the President's evening (dinner and party) events. Another danger, *N. fluens*, also found-picked by Japanese Anabasis, creates UMS's crisis. See PCB (July), (p. 65, 66.)

Though commonly flattered that people mistake his work for flower designs such as Italian and home linen, Dorian is determined to make his own unique mark. His designs are wearable, representative but also timeless, he says.

"There has a sense of drama," *Japanese Am-*
erican notes. "It has dramatic flow, but
[considering he's working with the West-
ern] he's also making beautiful music."

On the prize-laden CMA, Clinton makes sure not to use too many details. Good habits and simple breakfast are key. The new dining table, like red, orange and peach for evening. The rules of health for the President are easier and simpler, but Clinton is allowed some representation in knowledge and some detail. "You still believe in your system," he says.

For 15 President George W. Bush's recent state visit, CMA's red and orange were reported different colors. She was initially apprehensive, but with a little prodding from the designer, she goes in.

"I'm really happy that she trusts me," says Clinton. Whatever the results of next year's polls, he knows, he has reestablished a good working relationship with the President that would serve on some other day.

Labware and Reagents

Drivers also design-matching shoes and bags for some of the President's drivers. The bag game, he goes as high as four inches, but will



GREEN FRILL. Floral-print Indian silk evening gown with a fully beaded peacock tail at hip and tulle draping at the back.

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Funky denim brand opens new store



LEE's fashion philosophy of fusing archive influences with urban contemporary looks comes to life in its new store in Gloria Macapagal Avenue.

Playfully funky like walking into a cool rock n' roll pub, the store is peppered with unique details like Chicago-inspired signage, camouflage print furniture, colorful paper lamps and distressed painted wood with hand-drawn floral details.

The interior is a mishmash of textures and style that showcases and reinforces Lee's traditional workwear heritage with the new and contemporary look of the store.

For denim aficionados, Lee has in this store varied looks from acid, orange dunks to blue and stone. This high-quality fabric is provided with stone and other chemical treatments.

The effect of being dyed, bleached, treated, stained or whitened is what gives it the distinctive Lee Denim USA look and feel.

And with cool accessories and over-the-top G-String shirts, denim lovers get the full Lee experience under one roof.

LEE Denim USA's new store in Gloria Macapagal Avenue is a traditional workwear heritage with more contemporary touches.

The President's . . .

Presumptive

gabonensis, following Japanese tradition upon election.

Presumptive daughter Laila Arroyo is also a star. The younger woman's taste in accessories, says the designer, has the equally petite Laila get to borrow her mother's clothes and shoes, and vice versa, pleasing Linares as well.

The President is known for her chicness, so Gloria and Benedict's works are a "babe of love," says Espinoza-Aranda. Linares has several pieces, which she likes to wear on special occasions.

The association with the Palace has enabled the designer to have done a year, adding the designer, but says that the success, his "presidential" label is responsible, says Linares.

By choice, he has been more closer with his personal life, but that in no way means he ignores any other body on his list.

"It's more of an obligation," he says. "This is part of a cycle that goes on every one day. I don't see this, but since I've been married with a, I say as well to be the most of it."

E-mail the author at elaine@pacificnews.com.ph.



AQUATIC HYPERIA Boreasville evening gown with French sheer lace on the back and draping of the back.

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Gloria B. Bolanos

and baby Pamela
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Brgy. Purok, Guzman City

NORTH LUZON

Frances Therese R. Deligera
and baby Frederick Theodore
212 Linares St. Cebu City
Cry Land Subd., Baling Baling
Sta. Maria, Bulacan

Bernadeth L. Orquia

and baby Jannah
2105 Pinar St. 2/F T. Subd.
Angeles City

SOUTH LUZON

Alelie C. Sambo
and baby Christel Mae
8. Pinar St.
Ternate, Cebu

Luz Reyes

and baby Christine Joseph
2nd Fl. 1st St. 2nd Fl. 2nd St.
Bacolod 2. Cebu, Bacolod, Cebu

VISAYAS

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and baby Vanessa Jean
Brgy. Vito Area Delgado St.
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Emily A. Aguilar

and baby Thelma Mealy
5/E. Lopez St.
1440, 3440 City

MINDANAO

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Archbishop Rosales defines 'development'

I "VE always wondered why 'development' in this country is often accompanied by destruction. There must be ways and means to undertake development projects without causing havoc on the environment."

There must be appropriate technology, for instance, to extract minerals and other resources from our forests and mountains without despoiling them as they are used, letting the trees go to waste.

The unsustainable practices have resulted in destruction among people in those project areas and, worse, in an erosion of their natural resources already depleted, people must suffer the consequences of unbridled development—erosion, floods, even diseases.

From as we witness such destruction, we realize we need to develop our natural resources—be infrastructure, for buildings and houses, the economy and the everyday needs of the people who rely on the products of development."

The world's environmentalists, who centered in Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and launched Agenda 21, began to discuss environmental problems affecting the planet, sought to find a meeting ground between the needs of both development and conservation.

What they discussed, "Sustainable Development," was seen the cornerstone of the new thinking. The new motto that any "development" must have the



ARCHBISHOP **Guillermo Rosales**

ability to continue for a long time so that its benefits can be enjoyed not only by this generation but also by future ones. It's because the idea, clearly, is to be sustainable, and should not be allowed to overtake us."

Particularly in the midst of such questions, we came across a new definition of development that stresses a spiritual dimension in recognizing the new phase of development and conservation. It involved appreciation that the eradication would come during this new spirit of conservation, and from one person as an environmental activist among the clergy—Archbishop Guillermo Rosales, newly installed Archbishop of Manila.

For him, reconciliation can begin only by first embracing some basic development of natural resources study in

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskill Nardo



natural needs and desires, it should be clear "that one person's desires must not be allowed to satisfy another individual's essential needs," should that happen, "then development would mean, of course, that the world will not simply be a natural state."

To stress his point, the archbishop was not afraid to say in all—another "look for nature and for individual men, women in the more evident form of sustainable development." It suggests that nature (and a goodly) is a natural part of the "development" work.

Archbishop Rosales expressed these views in his keynote speech during the first-time Workshop on Community Development organized by Christian Peace through its subsidiary Center for Peace, which, with non-governmental organizations, promotes community-based projects, many of them environmental.

It will be recalled that in 1992, when he presided before Manila, Archbishop Rosales founded and chaired Peacemaking Foundation, a voluntary foundation that became such a success, it had become a model for the type of foundation, it became a success

because it dared to be different.

And it was different because the archbishop injected his philosophy of true development that went beyond the conventional meaning of "sustainable development," which is "meeting the needs of the present generation with resources at hand without sacrificing the resources of the next generation."

Archbishop Rosales saw the limitations of this definition, it was not down, he said, by technology and the ways of men, and ignored by their needs and desires. But, he noted, needs and desires differed from person to person, and they might even change with time.

The archbishop stated the case of two groups of people, and praying for good weather before they were having a garden, young and another group were praying for rain in their crops would grow. Could conflicting desires also become the reconciliation of many others toward the development of people and community building?

Archbishop Rosales said it was possible for development for people would have to be defined. "One person's desire must never be allowed to satisfy another individual's needs."

And there lies the root of the controversy, the archbishop, who made his calling, thinks of sustainable development in terms of separate benefits that would address poverty and conserve our natural resources. Development, he believes, must benefit not just one but all, including the environment itself.

That did not explain why illegal logging, destructive fishing,

minerals and other mismanagement of both of environmental regard, only lead to misery, even death, for many, while reaching a first perhaps in this season of hope, it might be timely to ponder on this.

Archbishop Rosales has been engaged in environmental work for some time, starting from his days in Cordoba, which he spent time to write a book in testimony of a priest in his life. His first force was, as first, an effort of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, gave his life defending the forests. More on this next time.

Email the author at the [inquirer](mailto:inquirer@inquirer.com) at inquirer@inquirer.com

New head

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archdiocese

is staunch

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NIGHT DODGERS Patterned column gown with barely-there low neckline.



MOD ELEGANCE Full-armed white lace-through back top paired with slim pants and pebbled high heels.



BLACK TWISTS Lace column gown with low neckline and high slit, black headbands and high heels.



WHITE DELIGHT One-sleeved gown in heavy fabric, paired with high-waisted pants and high heels.



LASTING IMPRESSION Heavy fabric, paired with high-waisted pants and high heels.



NIGHT LARKS Navy blue, form-fitting gown with high slit and high heels.

A night of car-inspired fashion

DESIGNER Eddie Badden came up with a fabulous 17-piece collection inspired by characteristics and qualities of each new car model Hyundai Asia Reserves Inc., the country's official Hyundai distributor, recently introduced to the market—the Coupe, Sonata and XG.

The glitzy and glamorous event, held at the Ballroom of the Manila Philippine Plaza, gathered together the top executives and owners of Hyundai and car dealers and introduced them all over the country to celebrate the launch of their new cars.

The show started with the first and sporty Coupe collection. Badden translated these qualities to fashion with easy and sexy lines rendered in futuristic cut, lace and tulle and knee-length leather skirt with a high slit and high heels and high heels.

Next, the car that speaks the language of sophistication, inspired the designer to come up with the Sonata collection. Badden translated these qualities to fashion with sophisticated and elegant lines, high heels and high heels.

While the car is elegant and sophisticated, Badden's interpretation of the XG's commanding presence. Pure, modern and clean all at the same time, Badden's vision of the XG is a line that is both elegant and sophisticated.

The night ended with rounds of applause for Badden's creations, which, everyone agreed, beautifully complemented and enhanced the new Hyundai cars.



Eddie Badden comes up with a 17-piece collection inspired by the qualities of Hyundai's three new car models.

LUXURY IN WHITE A collection of 17-piece gown with high heels and high heels.



DEBUTS and the car—the Hyundai XG



EDDIE Badden captures a moment